

## PRELIMINARY HALF YEAR REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2006

The following information is provided to the ASX under listing rule 4.2A.3.

### 1. REPORTING PERIOD

The financial information contained in this report is for the half-year ended 31 December 2006. Comparative amounts are for the half-year ended 31 December 2005.

### 2. RESULTS FOR ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE MARKET

		Change	% Change	to	\$A'000
2.1	Revenue from ordinary activities	down	92.2%	to	278
2.1.1	(Loss) from ordinary activities after tax attributable to members.	down	77.7%	to	(874)
2.2	Net (loss) for the period attributable to members.	down	77.7%	to	(874)
2.3	The amount per security and franked amount per security of final and interim dividends	No dividends were declared or paid during the year.			
2.4	A brief explanation of any of the figures in 2.1 to 2.3 necessary to enable the figures to be understood	Refer to commentary below			

### 3. COMMENTARY ON RESULTS FOR THE PERIOD

During the period, Benitec shut down its US office and transferred its operations to its Melbourne office. Shut down costs are included in the loss for the half year ended 31 December 2006.

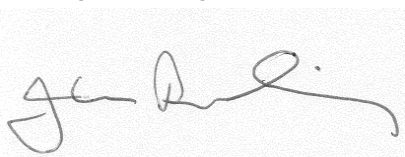
In October 2006, the Company secured a \$1 million unsecured loan from a sophisticated investor, Dr Chris Bremner. Shareholders approved the conversion of \$947,020 of the loan into 45,096,188 fully paid ordinary shares at the General Meeting held on 13 February 2007.

The US shutdown process continues and we expect that there will be further costs, yet to be incurred, related to this shutdown in the next half year. The costs of the discontinued operations in the US for the half year ended 31 December 2006 were \$429,897.

#### 4. NET TANGIBLE ASSET BACKING PER SHARE

	2006	2005
Net tangible asset backing per ordinary share	0.2 cents	2.9 cents

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD



John Rawling  
Company Secretary

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#### About Benitec

Benitec is an Australian biotechnology company focused on licensing its extensive intellectual property portfolio and developing therapeutics to treat serious diseases using its proprietary ddRNAi technology. Its current therapeutic program is focused on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Benitec's RNA-based HIV therapeutic, co-developed with the Center for Biomedicine & Genetics at the City of Hope in Los Angeles, California, will enter Phase I clinical trials in early 2007. For additional information, please visit [www.benitec.com](http://www.benitec.com).

#### Forward-looking Statements

*This press release contains forward-looking statements that reflect the Company's current expectations regarding future events. Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties. Actual events could differ materially from those projected herein and depend on a number of factors including the success of the Company's research strategy, the applicability of the discoveries made therein, the successful and timely completion of clinical studies and the uncertainties related to the regulatory process.*